

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$ , where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0.5 < y < 0.95$ .

2. The positive electrode active material according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

3. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_z\text{A}_{1-(y+z)}\text{PO}_4$ , where  $0 < x \leq 2$ ,  $0.5 < y < 0.95$ ,  $0.5 < y+z < 1$  and A is at least one metal element selected from Ti and Ag.

4. The positive electrode active material according to claim 3 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_z\text{A}_{1-(y+z)}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

5. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

    a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;

    a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and

    an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein

    said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the

    general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0.5 < y < 0.95$ .

6. The positive electrode active material according to claim 5 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

7. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

- a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;
- a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and
- an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein
- said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the
- general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_z\text{A}_{1-(y+z)}\text{PO}_4$  where  $0 < x \leq 2$ ,  $0.5 < y < 0.95$  and  $0.5 < y+z < 1$  and wherein A is at least one metal element selected from Ti and Mg.

8. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 7 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_z\text{A}_{1-(y+z)}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

9. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$ , where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0 < y < 1$  and wherein B is a metal element selected from among Ti, Zn, Mg and Co.

10. The positive electrode active material according to claim 9 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

11. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$ , where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0 < y < 1$  and wherein B denotes plural metal elements selected from among Ti, Fe, Zn, Mg and Co.

12. The positive electrode active material according to claim 11 wherein a portion of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Emmet

Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

13. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;  
a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and  
an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein  
said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the  
general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0 < y < 1$  and wherein B denotes  
one metal element selected from among Ti, Zn, Mg and Co.

14. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 13 wherein a portion of the  
 $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Eimnet  
Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

15. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;  
a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and  
an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein  
said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the  
general formula  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{B}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  where  $0 < x \leq 2$  and  $0 < y < 1$  and wherein B denotes  
plural metal elements selected from among Ti, Fe, Zn, Mg and Co.

16. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 15 wherein a portion of the  
 $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{PO}_4$  has a grain size not larger than  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , with the Bulnauer Eimnet  
Taylor specific surface area being not less than  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .